

A government spokesperson and government MP's have accused me, the former Minister of Health of ignoring the recommendations of my technical officers in this regard. Why is this false accusation being raised now when it has never been raised before?

It may be that the timing of the accusation provides cover for a decision that the government felt it could not easily defend.

This kafuffle has its origin in the Health Miscellaneous Amendment Bill which was tabled in House in May 2017. It was part of the government's overall plan to reduce health care costs. The Bill introduced the requirement for the Health Council (within the mandate of the Council established by PLP) to recommend fees to the Minister of Health for all standard health benefit.

The Bill also indicated that the BHB outpatient service fees for diagnostic imaging should be on par with the community-based fees set by the Bermuda Health Council using a relative based methodology which is a transparent standardized technique.

At that time when the Bill was introduced, as Hansard confirms, there was no debate or question raised regarding the funding policy for medical scans and no "wrong" was identified in this regard.

The OBA's policy was part of a plan perused by every country in the world - to reduce the cost of health care in Bermuda. Health care cuts are not easy and the OBA took steps on this.

If this \$600,000 payment is a reversal of the OBA plan, what will the government put in its place to curb health care cost? Where is the PLP governments cost cutting plan? Or are we now at the mercy of the self-interest of individuals in the community rather than the best interest of the people of Bermuda.

This is exactly, across the board, what the OBA plan seeks to avoid. With one reversal comes two, comes three and then we are back to where we were before spiraling health care cost, the brunt of which will be overwhelm the people of Bermuda.